

Amendment to Claims

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this Application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An elongate structural chase beam adapted for assembly in a building frame as a unit extending laterally between, and with opposite ends anchored to, a pair of upright columns, and further adapted to accommodate the vertical passage of selected building infrastructure through, and generally within the vertical plane containing, the long axis of the beam, said beam comprising

spaced opposite end portions, and
an elongate spanner portion extending between and joining operatively with said end portions, and including a central, vertically-oriented through-passage, referred to as a chase passage, that lies generally in about a plane containing the beam's long axis.

Claim 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An elongate structural chase beam adapted for assembly in a building frame as a unit extending laterally between, and with opposite ends anchored to, a pair of upright columns, and further adapted to accommodate the vertical passage of selected building infrastructure through, and generally within the vertical plane containing the long axis of , the beam, said beam comprising

a pair of longitudinally spaced end portions defining opposite ends of the beam,
and

a pair of elongate, laterally spaced and generally parallel spanner portions

extending between and having opposite ends operatively joined to said end portions, the space between said spanner portions defining a vertically clear chase passage extending as a clear space through the beam generally in about a plane containing the beam's long axis.

Claim 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The chase beam of claim 2, wherein at least one of said end portions is formed with includes an overload fuse.

Claim 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The chase beam of claim 2, wherein each of said end portion is formed with includes an overload fuse.

Claim 5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The chase beam of claim 2, wherein each said end portion takes the form of portions includes an I-beam, and each said spanner portion takes the form of portions includes a channel.

Claim 6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The chase beam of claim 5, wherein each end-portion I-beam has spaced flanges with spaced, opposite-side pairs of outwardly facing lateral edges, said spanner-portion channels each includes a central web and a pair of spaced flanged flanges extending from one side of said central web, and said spanner-portion and each end-portion are joined in a manner whereby said central webs are anchored to the lateral edges of different ones of associated, opposite-side pairs of said outwardly facing lateral edges, with the flanges in the spanner-portion channels extending outwardly away from the attached end-portion.